



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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Water Board To Discuss Water Rights Acquisition Program

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho – December 12, 2004

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The Idaho Water Resource Board will discuss the recently released “Invitation for Offers to Sell Water Rights”, when members hold a meeting by telephone, on Friday, December 17, 2004, beginning at 8:30am, at the Idaho Water Center in Boise.

Under the “Strawman Proposal” designed to help stabilize supply and demand on the East Snake Plain Aquifer, the Board would seek to purchase up to 280,000 acre feet of natural flow water rights from willing sellers on behalf of the people of the State of Idaho. It is just one element of the overall proposal, which must ultimately be approved by the Board, the Idaho Legislature and Governor Dirk Kempthorne.

People interested in selling their water rights have until January 7, 2005 to respond to the Invitation for Offers to Sell Water Rights. Forms and instructions are available on the Idaho Department of Water Resources website: www.idwr.daho.gov

The Board will also discuss the activities both of the Interim Legislative Committee, which developed the framework for the ESPA Settlement Agreement, and the minimum stream flows required under another high-profile agreement designed to settle the Nez Perce Tribe’s claim to much of the water in the Snake River Basin. Congress recently approved the Nez Perce Agreement, which still needs to be affirmed by the Tribe, the Idaho Legislature and the Governor.

The Board will also consider loans and grant requests from the Smith Road Water Users Association and the Jefferson Irrigation Company.

The public can listen to the meeting by telephone by calling (505)-766-5467 and entering participant code 600755 when prompted.

Editor’s Note: Copies of the agenda are available. Contact either me, or Crystal Calais @ (208) 287-4800 if you would like a copy.

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